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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SPRINGFIELD, IL:...SEPTEMBER 17, 1985....Illinois Environmental Protection Agency Director, Richard J. Carlson, announced Tuesday the selection of an environmental consulting firm to perform a comprehensive study of 16 known or suspected hazardous waste sites in the vicinity of Dead Creek in St. Clair County. Ecology and Environment of Buffalo, New York will perform a remedial investigation and feasibility study of industrial waste sites in the towns of Sauget and Cahokia. The State-funded environmental study is expected to cost approximately \$1 million and will take 18 months to complete. Following the study, pollution containment and removal options will be determined.

"The complexity of the pollutants in these areas and hydrogeologic setting found in the Dead Creek area make this one of the toughast hazardous waste projects the Agency has ever attempted to undertake," said IEPA Director Carlson.

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The Study will involve investigation and analysis of surface and subsurface soils, creek sediment, surface water, groundwater and airbourne contaminants associated with waste disposal operations in these areas. Among the disposal sites slated for investigation and sampling are:

Sauget Sewage Treatment

Plant lagoons

Site 12

Sauget/Monsanto Landfill

Site 13(refer to map)

Sauget Landfill

Site 14

Sauget (Monsanto) Toxic

Landfill

Site 15

Dead Creek

Site 16

(Note: The majority of sites identified in the Study area are not named.)

Several combinations of remedial technologies will be included in the feasibility study. "Cleanup alternatives will be selected on the basis of their capability to protect human health and the environment," Carlson said.

Two public hearings will be held to discuss results of the environmental study and to gather public input on the choice of technologies to control further contamination. Other more informal meetings will be held with nearby residents.

Last year, Governor James R. Thompson, in cooperation with legislative leaders, proposed the most ambitious hazardous waste cleanup program in Illinois history. The "Clean Illinois" program provides \$20 million over three years to target and clean up abandoned hazardous waste sites. The LaMear site in Fairmont City was the first cleanup action under "Clean Illinois".

In addition, Governor Thompson's "Build Illinois" program provides \$90 million over the next five years to further cleanup action. The Sauget area is named on a State priority list of 14 Illinois locations containing hazardous substances in which the Illinois EPA expects to undertake remedial actions. The Agency is also working on a number of immediate removal projects across the State. (See <a href="Progress">Progress</a>). Governor Thompson's "Clean Illinois Frogram" and the State Hazardous Waste Fund are the public sources of revenue to finance this statewide hazardous substance cleanup initiative. These funds will also provide State matching funds for the Federal Superfund Program and foster Chemical Safety Research.